Parvus Cato Magnus Cato

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Translated by
Benet Burgh

Printed at Westminster
by William Caxton about the year
1477

Cambridge
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Among the books collected by John Moore, Bishop of Ely, and presented to the University of Cambridge in 1715 by King George the First, probably the most famous is a certain volume of small pieces, chiefly by Chaucer and Lydgate, printed separately by Caxton at the very outset of his career at Westminster.

The tract here reprinted is the second of eight contained in the volume. Like the Anelida and Arcite and Lydgate's Temple of Glass already issued in this series, it is believed to be unique.

The translator, Benet Burgh, is described by Caxton in 1483 as 'late Archdeacon of Colchestre and high canon of St Stephens at Westmestre'; and the translation, Caxton tells us, was made 'for the erudition of my lord Bousher, son and heir at that time to my lord the erle of Estsex.' Lord Bourchier was killed at Barnet, April 14, 1471.

FRANCIS JENKINSON

June 1, 1906.

I certify that I have printed 250 copies only of this facsimile, that the impressions have been rubbed off the plates and the negatives destroyed.

P. DUJARDIN

· Hic Incipit paruus Catho ·

Cū aīaduūterē quā plurimos hoīes g̃uiter errare
When I aduerte to my remembrance
And see how fele folkes erren greuously
In the wey of vertuouse gouernance
I haue supposed in myn hert that I
Oughte to supporte & conseylle prudently
Them to be vertuous in lyuyng
And how they shal them self in honour bring
Igitur fili carissime docebo te quo pacto mores
Therfore my leue child I shal now telle the
Herken me wele the maner and the guyse
How thy sowle inward shal acqueinted be
With thewes good & vertues in al wyse
Rede and conceyue for he is to dispyse
That redith ay & wote not what it ment
Suche reding is no thing but wynde mispent
Itaqꝫ deo supplica/parentes ama
Pray thy god & preise him with al thyn hert
Fader and moder haue ay in reuerence
Loue hem wele and be thou neuer to smert
To here men is conseil but kepe the thens

Til thou be clepid & clene without offence
Salue gladly to hym that is more digne
Than art thy self þu shalt thy place resigne
Magistrum metue. Rem tuam custodi
Drede thy maistre thy thyng loke thou kepe
Take hede to thin houshold ay loue thy wyf
Pleasāt wordes out of thy mouth shold crepe
Be not Irous kepe thy behestes as thy lyf
Be temporat with wyne & be not excessif
Thy wyf is wordes take in noon auctorite
In foly slepe nomore than nedith the.
Libros lege libros disce/quod legeris memento
In goodly bokes whilom shalt thou rede
And that thou redest in thy mynde thou shit
Stere no wight to wrath lye not I the rede
Do wele to god and he wil the efte quyte
Be not wikked ner to the wikked knyt
Stonde in the place of pletyng exercyse
Deme the right and be conseyled of the wyse
Troco lude/aleas fuge/pactū serua
Play with the toppe the dises loke þu eschewe
Dispise noman kepe euer thy beheste
Scorne neuer wreche than shalt þu neuer rew

Coueyte no man is good spekе felwe atte feste
Loke thy vengeance be alwey with the leeste
Who hath don the good haue in remembrance
Loue euery wight and this shal the auance

Beholde my maistre this litel tretyse
Whiche is ful of wit and sapience
Enforce the this matere tacomplise
Thenke hit is translated at your reuerence
Enrolle hit therfore in your aduertence
And desire for to knowe what cathon mente
Whan ye it rede let not your hert be thense
But doth as this saith with al your hole entente

·Hic finis parui cathonis·

Hic Incipit magnus Catho.

¶ I deus est animus nobis vt carmina dicūt
Hic tibi precipue sit pura mente colendus
For thy that god is inwardly the wit
Of man and geuyth hym vnderstanding
As dites sayne therfore shalt thou vnshit
Thyn hert to thy souerayn lord & kyng
And principally a boue al other thing
Geuyng hym laude/honour and reuerence
Whiche hath the endowed with excellence
Plus vigila semper ne sompno deditus esto
Nā diuturna quies vicijs alimenta ministrat
A wake my child and loue no slogardye
In moche slepe loke thou neuer delite
Yf thou purpose to worship for to stye
Longe slepe & slouthe to vice doon men excite
It maketh men dul It makith hem vnprofite
It fosterith vp filthes of the flesshe
It palleth also and wasteth blodes fresshe
Virtutem primā puta esse compescere linguam
Proximus ille deo qui scit racione tacere
Trusteth wele also the first of vertues alle

Ys to be stille and kepe thy tonge in mewe
Of tonge untyed moche harme may falle.
Leue me wele this is as the gospel trewe
Who that can delauiance of wordes eschewe
And reste with reason this is werrey texte
To god aboue that man is alder next
Sperne repugnando tibi tu contrarius esse
Conueniet nulli qui secum dissidet ipse
Aduise the wele that thou neuer trauerse
Thyn owne sentence for therof sueth shame
Sey not oon & efte the contrarie reherce
Such repugnāce wol make thy worship lame
Where stedfastnesse wol cause thy good fame
For he shal neuer acorde with man on lyue
That with him self wil ay repugne & stryue
Si vitam inspicias hominum si denique mores
Cum culpas alios nemo sine crimine viuit
Yf thou aduertyse and beholde aboute
The lyues of men and maners also
Bothe of thy self and other the withoute
In myddelerth thou shalt fynde who
That in sōme part nys vertue foo
Blame no man therfore yf you do a righte

Sith in erth lasses liueth no wight
Que nocitura tenes quamuis sint cara relinque
Utilitas opibus preponi tempore debet
Yf thou suppose thing that shal noye & greue
Thaugh they be dere & right gret of price
Suche as suffreth not thy prouffit achieue
Yf thou lust to be reuled as the wyse
Absteyne the from suche thing in al wyse
For it is more wisdam in sothfastnesse
To preferre prouffit than suche richesse
Constans et lenis ut res expostulat esto
Temporibus mores sapiens sine crimine mutat
It is a good lesson for the nones
A wight to be tempred with constaunce
And to be glad and mery eftesones
Not alwey sad ne light of contenance
A man is there may hym ful ofte auaunce
For at iche tyme as the thing requireth
So the wyse man visageth and chereth
Nil temere uxori de seruis crede querenti
Sepe etenim mulier quem coniunx diligit odit
Gyf no credence alwey to thy wyf
That for hire Ire and inpacience

With scharper tonge than is swerd or knyf
Playneth on thy seruant though non offence
Thou fynde in hym lerne wele this sentence
The wyf wol hate and cause to smert
Often hym that hire housband loueth in hert
Cumq; mones aliquē nec se velit ipse moneri
Si tibi sit carus noli desistere ceptis
And yf thou warne a wight of his forfete
al though he grutcheth with frownyng cōtenāce
And in his langage manace the & threte
Yet forbere thou not for al suche displesance
To teche hym to amende his gouernance
As thou began correcte that is a mysse
And that is a frendly teche I wysse
Contra verbosos noli contendere verbis
Sermo datur cunctis animi sapiencia paucis
Ayenst woordy folk ay ful of wynde
Stryue not at al. It may not the proufyte
Suche rasshe folkes ben in conceytes blynde
The witles word auayleth not a myte
In fewe wordes is ofte wisedam suffyte
For vnto euery wight is yeuen speche
And yet the wyse ful ofte ben for to seche

Dilige sic alios vt sis tibi carus amicus
Sic bonus esto bonis ne te mala dāpna sequātur
Loue other men and haue them so in chere
That to thy self thy loue moost extende
Loke no persone be to the more dere
Than thyn estat for than thou shalt offende
And hurte thy self & other folke amende
But euer cherisshe other & loue hem soo
That to thy self thou be founden no foo
Rumores fuge ne incipias nouus autor haberi
Nam nulli tacuisse nocet nocet esse locutum
Tydinges new that flen as the wynde
Eschewe my child with al thy diligence
Be neuer besy new tidinges to fynde
Suche nouelte causeth ofte offence
It is no wit It is no sapience
It hurteth not a man to be in pees
But it doth harme to put his tonge in prees
Rem tibi promissam certam pmittere noli
Rara fides ideo qz multi multa loquuntur
Make no promyse of other men is best
Remembre wele that promyse is vnsure
But yf thou kepe thyn thy name sleest

To serue thy behest do thy besy cure
Trust not the word of euery creature
Sume man is feith is esy to breke
For many folkes thenke not as they speke
Cū te aliquis laudat iudex tuus esse memento
Plus alijs de te quā tu tibi credere noli
With wordes faire whan fauel fedith the
Be thou not blynde for his fals flaterye
Late thyn owne reason alwey thy Jugge be
And in effect yf thyn estat be hye
thaugh fauel with his crafte wil blere thin eye
In al thy lyf thou neuer geue credence
More to thy self than to thy conscience
Officium alterius multis narrare memento
Atq3 alijs cum tu benefeceris ipse sileto
Whan thou seest a nother man is desert
As for his good dedes cōmendable
In euery place preue or a part
Suche a wight with thy good word enable
And though he haue ben by the auaylable
Yet of thy good dede make thou no bobaunce
And than shal other men thin name enhaunce
Multorum cum facta senex et dicta resensus

Fac tibi succurrant iuuenis que feceris ipse
And yf thou liue longe an oldmā shalt þu be
Age wol approuche maugre who seith nay
Than perceyue beholde aboute and see
Howe aged folk ben treted with al day
And so puruey for thy self a say
Into stoupyng age whan thou art crept
Thing may þe help þt in thin youthe was kept
Ne cures si quis tacito sermone loquatur
Conscius ipse sibi de se putat omnia dici
Charge not al though þu see men speke softe
Ne change no chere for ofte it is ful bet
In secret wyse to speke than crye on lofte
A man sholde see alwey where he were set
And after that so sholde he speke or let
But to the suspect of harme it semeth
Men speke of hym he noon other demeth
Cum fueris felix que sunt aduersa caueto
Non eodem cursu respondent vltima primis
Whan fortune hath yeuen the felicite
And set the on high than be war of a fal
Than sueth ofte suche sharp aduersite
Fals fortune tourneth as doth a bal

In hyre trust haue thou no sikernesse at al
Hire perelous play turneth whilom to grame
For the ende is woo that began the that game
Cum dubia et fragilis sit nobis vita tributa
In mortem alterius spem tu tibi ponere noli
Our brotel lyf is here so ful of doute
That in verrey surete no wight may stonde
So sodenly crepen the soules oute
Al aboute this world in euery londe
Of yonge and old for euery wight is bonde
To deth therfore set not thyn affiance
In deth of him þ̇ may the suruyue parchance
Exiguum munus cum det tibi pauper amicus
Accipito placide plene laudare memento
A litel yefte geuen with good entent
Of thy frend that lyuith in pouerte
With right good chere suche yefte take ⁊ bent
Supposing ay that as good wille hath he
And more than many men that richer be
Peyse not the yefte ne pondre not the pryse
Thentent is good ⁊ that shal the suffise
Infantem nudum cum te natura creauit
Paupertatis onus pacienter ferre memento

Sith nature that is thy first norice
Hath brought the hider al naked & bare
Though thou neuer can richesse acomplice
But thou art holde alwey in pouertis snare
Yet no force make neuer to moche care
Take paciently pouerte for the best
Riches is not of nature but of erth encrest
Ne timeas illam que vite est vltima finis
Qui mortem metuit qd vivit perdit idipm
Though deth be the fyn of euery creature
And no wight on lyue shal from hym escape
Yet drede not deth with ouer besy cure
To lyue on erth It is but a Jape
Yf thou shalt alwey after deth so gape
Thinke wele to dye but moderfye thy thought
Or ellis to lyue auayleth the right noght
Si tibi pro meritis nemo respondet amicus
Accusare deu noli sed teipse coherce
For thy desert yf no frend thanke the
I mene whan thou hast don thy force & payne
To other folkes frendly for to be
Yf they can not gramercy to the sayne
Withdrawe thin hand & so thy self restrayne

Blame not thy god/for thaire vnfrendlinesse
But for suche men do afterwarde the lesse
Ne tibi quid desit quesitis vtere parce
Vt que quod est serues semper tibi desse puta
Sith no richeman that leuith any where
Yf he consume his goodes al and waste
But that pouerte shal greue sore and dere
Therfore my child suche goodes as thou haste
Let not to sone oute of thy hand beraste
Leest than thy good hereafter wol the fayle
Hold that thou hast It may the efte auayle
Quod prestare potes ne bis promiseris vlli
Ne sis ventosus dum vis bonus esse videri
Behote no man a thing to lene hym twyse
And fayle hym oones that is but vilanye
Yf thou may lene do it in frendly wyse
Suche cheuissance a frend both to be wrye
Of thy good dedes clamoure thou not ne crye
Be not wyndy ner of wordes breme
Yf a good man thou liste apere and seme
Qui simulat verbis nec corde est fidus amicus
Tu quoqꝫ fac simile sic ars deluditur arte
And yf thou fynde the sone of doublenesse

The fals dissimilour yf thou espye
With peinted wordes & hert ful of falsnesse
Thou maist in no wyse better blere his ye
Than to serue hym with his owne trecherye
With wordes fayre & frendly to departe
Mene thou the same & art begyle by arte
Noli homines blando nimium sermone probare
Fistula dulce canit volucrem dū decipit auceps
Preue yͧ neuer a man by ouer peinted speche
For vndre fayre wordes is ofte annexed gile
The word is gay but frendship is to seche
As it is sayd suche craft is in this Ile
Yet sūme thinke yl whan they thair tōges file
The whistelyng fouler maketh mery songe
And so the briddes begileth he amonge
Cum tibi sint nati nec opes tunc artibus illos
Instrue quo possint inopem deffendere vitam
Whan so is that thou hast goten children
Loke in her yongth than enforme hem soo
In som craft & mister that they may therin
Lerne to gete her lyuyng & to deffende also
Her lyf whiche euer nedeth & that they vnto
Vertu may atteyne for he that no craft can

Ofte tym̄ nedeth ꝛ is in dāger of euery man
Quod vile est carum quod carum vile putato
Sic tibi nec cupidus nec auarus nosceris vlli
Haue this conceit for it is ofte sene
Thing dere bought ful ofte bute of price
And thinges that litel of valeu bene
In tyme comyng may to gret derth aryse
Remembre wele this and it ay aduertyse
Thus shalt ỹ best ẙ name of chincherie fleme
And other men shal the no nygard deme
Que culpare soles ea tu ne feceris ipse
Turpe est doctori cum culpa redarguit ipsum
Aduise the wele lete reason be thy guyde
Whan other folkes thou art aboute to blame
That suche default in the be not espyed
For yf it be than shalt thou haue the shame
A mannes honnour suche thing wol reclame
It is ful foule whan a man wol teche
Yf that his dedes ageinst his wordes preche
Quod iustū est petito vel quod videatur honestū
Nam stultū est petere quod possit iure negari
Loke thy desir be grounded of right
And than that it neuer trauerse honeste

For as often tymes as any wordly wight
Desireth more than right or equyte
Than may his request sone replyed be
And it is cleped nycete and gret folye
To aske ofte that right wol ay denye
Ignotum tibi tu noli preponere notis
Cognita iudicio constant incongnita casu
Change not a frend þt thou knowest of old
For any newe in trust that thou shalt finde
A better than he but in thy handes thou hold
Hym that hath ben to the frendly & kynde
For suche eschanges ben ofte ful blynde
The seconde thou knowest neuer a dele
To knowe a trusty frend It is casuele
Cum dubia in certis versetur vita periculis
Pro lucro tibi pone diem quicumqꝫ laboras
Sith that mans lyf is ofte ful of miserie
Whilom in mirth and after in mischief
Now in the valey & now in the hille on hye
Now is man poure & after by riches in relief
The shynyng morowe hath ofte a stormy eue
To this precepte take hede at the last ende
Haue lucre for thy labour er that thou wende

Uincere cum possis interdum cede sodali
Obsequio quin dulces retinentur amici
Though thou may ouercome & haue ẏ victorie
Of thy frend or felowe yet ay forbere
Refrayne thy self and be not haute or hye
Irous handes ful euyl to greue and dere
Where easy softenesse frendes may conquere
For by good dedes set in lowlinesse
Men ben to geder knyt in frendlinesse
Ne dubites cum magna petas impendere parua
Hys etem rebus coniungit gracia caros
The limytour that visitith the wyues
Ys wyse ynogh of hym a man may lere
To yeue neldes pynnes girdeles & knyues
The craft is good thus doth the wyse frere
Yeueth thing smale for thing that ben dere
Yf thou receyue euer yeue ẏ sumwhat a geyn
And that wol ay norisshe loue in certeyn
Litem inferre caue cū quo tibi gracia iuncta est
Ira odium generat concordia nutrit amorem
Toyle not ne stryue with him ẏ is thy frend
Beware of that make neuer thy frend thy fo
A toylous mā may frendship breke & shend

Thyse baratours that ben mysreuled so
Interrupte hem self & wrappen in moche wo
For wikked wrath engendreth but hate
Where as good accord norisshe loue algate
Seruoꝝ ob culpam cum te dolor vrget in iram
Ipse tibi moderare tuis vt parcere possis
Whan thy seruant thou takest in defaute
Though he can not his negligence excuse
Yet in thyn Ire make not to fers a saute
But with thy male talent take treuse
So shalt thou finde ease this set yf thou vse
Reule thy passion and ay by suche mesure
That thou saue hem that ben vnder thy cure
Quem superare potes interdum vince ferendo
Maxima etenim morum semper paciencia virtus
Sufferance doth ease was seyd longe a goo
Suffre thou and haue al thyn entent
Though al thou maist ouer yet do ẏ not soo
Conquere by sufferance and be pacient
But for to folowe cruelte neuer consent
For it is cleped a vertu with excellence
A wight to lyue in humble pacience
Conserua pocius que sunt iam parta labore

Cum labor in dampno crescit mortalis egestas
Be not to skant ner be not to prodigal
Cōserue thy thinges goten with trewe labour
It is ful fayre to be called liberal
But ay eschewe wast and be no surfetour
Consume not al thy tresour in oon hour
Whan of thy labour riseth noon auayle
Nedes pouerte must the in hast assayle
Dapsilis interdum notis caris et amicis
Cum fueris felix semper tibi proximus esto
Be thou not like scenola for he wold ete
With euery man and at his fest hym fede
But neuer no man might taste of his mete
Ner no wight to him come but he to al mē yede
Be fre of thy mete but loke that larges lede
The no ferther than thou may easly atteyne
be euer thin owne frēd thus caton seith certein
Take hede sire and see howe holsumly this clerk
Entreteth men with vertuouse doctrine
The first part of this compendious werk
In worship howe they shul ful clerely shyne
Guydyng to vertewe streight as a lyne
Whois preceptis to obserue yf that ye liste

And to his conseil your hertis to enclyne
Right in your age ful wele It shal be wiste
The vertuous fourme þ men shul forth conuey
Lo in this lyf as bridel doth a best
That may do not erre here in this pilous wey
Stablisshing hym as doth a stedfast arest
And as siluer guydes that men worthiest
Mannes liuyng here to set in gouernance
This sage Cathon putteth in remembrance

+ Incipit secundus liber +

t Elluris si forte velis cognoscere cultus
Virgiliū legito qđ si mage noscere laboras
Herbarum vires macer tibi carmina dicet
Yf thou lust my child set thy hertly delyt
Of erth to knowe the tilthe and the culture
And yf thou wilt be of knowleche parfit
Why sume is erable and sume eke pasture
Why sume is fresshe lyke floures of picture
I conseile the to studye sadlye for a whyle
In the laureat poete grete Virgile
Si Romana cupis et punica noscere bella

Lucanū queras qui martis prelia dicit
And thou haue desirous fresshe corage
To here of romaynes noble worthinesse
Howe they venyquisshed them of cartage
And many other thurgh manly prowesse
Than rede lucan ful wele can he expresse
Who bare hym best in towne & also in feld
And who did meruailes vnder martes sheld
Si quis amare libet vel discere amare legendo
Nasonem petito sin autem cura tibi hec est
And who that list eke of louers for to rede
And in what wyse hym self for to auance
As in ye craft naso can teche hym for to spede
For sume loue song + harp + pype and dance
Sume in redinge & other thinge of pleasance
Sume louyn couertly eke & list not be espiede
And sum wold beknowen thus writeth ouide
Vt sapiens viuas audi que discere possis
Per que semotum vicijs deducitur euum
But yet my lef child yf that in auenture
Thin hert be yeuen to no suche maner thinge
Or that it be not vnto thy playsure
That virgil macer lucan / or naso doth bringe

Yet that yᵘ may be wyse after in thy leuynge
Yf thou lust to me to yeue audience
I shal shewe the doctrine of sapience
Ergo ades que sit sapiencia disce legendo
Therfore my child come nere to me & lere
And I shal the shewe the verray tresure
Of sapience yf the lust to herken and here
And eke how thou shalt in good estat endure
And lede thy lyf holy after goddis plesure
Therfore approche and lere this redyng
To ben a man ay vertuous of leuyng
Si potes ignotis eciam prodesse memento
Vtilius est regno meritis adquirere amicos
Ther is no wight that ferther may reporte
Of thy good dedes than the stranger may
Make him ay good chere & shewe him disporte
And he shal with hõnour vtter yͭ this no nay
For yͤ vnknowen It prouffiteth sũtime tassay
Frendes ynowe to haue It is a better thing
Than is frendles any man to be a kyng
Mitte arcana dei celum inquirere quid sit
Cum sis mortalis que sunt mortalia cura
Of goddis misterie & eke of his werching

Make neuer my child to ber inquirance
It is foly any man to muse on suche thing
Dispute thou neuer vpon thy goddes puruēace
For al thing must be vnder his gouernāce
And sith thou art man clad in mortalite
Dispute thou of thing suche as mortal be
Linque metum leti nā stultū est tempore ī oīm
Qui mortem metuit amittit gaudia vite
The drede of deth that is inordinate
I mene to drede it ay and neuer to cese
Be ware of that I conseyle the algate
For this is trew as the gospel doutlese
Who that dredith deth is alwey mirthlese
Whan drede of deth any man so agruggeth
He wasteth his tyme & ay his lyf abreggeth
Iratus de re incerta contendere noli
Impedit ira animum ne possit cernere verum
For thing that is vnto the vncertayne
Whan thou art wroth loke neuer that þu striue
But first þu oughtest to knowe þe mater plaine
For there is no persone oonly on erth a liue
But that he onsawles is also blyue
As besy wrath hath kindled hym on fyre

And than can he not deme the trouth for Ire
Fac sumptum propere cum res desiderat ipsa
Dandū etē m̄ est aliq̄d cū tempus postulat ꝗ res
As tyme requireth so make ay thyn expense
Mesure thyn hand ek after the professe
Of thing of tyme and also of the presence
So that thou spende nomore than nedith the
And that spende loke that thyn hert be fre
A man shold do kost ꝛ make his spending
Cōsiderīg ẏ tyme ꝛ ek of his costis rewardīg
Quod nimiū est fugito paruo gaudere memēto
Tuta magis puppis modico que flumine fertur
To moche is noght of any manere thing
The mene is good and moost comendable
That mā standeth surest here in this leuing
With mene estat that holdeth hym greable
Plente and pouerte to degre be not suffrable
For than is the ship in the see moost surest
What tyme the flode is moost demurest
Quod pudeat socios prudens celare memento
Ne plures culpant id quod tibi displicet vni
Yf ẏ knowe aught ẏ may turne in to shame
Kepe it secret and for no thing it bewrye

Be neuer to besy suche thinges to proclame
Or puplisshe as thou knowest wol reprye
Make not almen to gauren on it and crye
Lest yͤ men dāpne yͤ to other folkes vnknowee
For suche fals demers yͧ maist finde ynow
Nolo putes prauos homines peccata lucrari
Temporibus peccata latent et tempore patent
Yf thou espye and see or perceiue a forfaiture
And ek a shrewe of misgouernance
Truste wele that sumtyme shal come an houre
Whan for his dedes he shal suffre penance
A cursed dede asketh wreche and vengeance
Though wikkednesse for yͤ tyme be kept secre
Yet atte last it wol discouered be
Corporis exigui vires contempnere noli
Consilio pollet cui vim natura negauit
Though sumtyme nature hath ben vnkynde
And geuyth a man to be of smale stature
Yet remembre my child & haue in thy mynde
That thou neuer dispyse that creature
For god may sende hym fortune & bone vre
And ofte they be with good conseil alyed
To whom nature hath gret strenthe denyed

Quem scieris nō esse parem tibi tempore cede
Victorem a victo superari sepe videmus
  Whan thy hap is to trauerse and haue a do
  With hym that is noght egal to thy myght
  Thyn uttermest power shewe not suche unto
  Lest that eftesones he haue the in like plight
  For it is often seen in batayl and in fight
  Fortune changeth ofte withyn oon our
  And he is scomfited that was erst victour
Aduersus notum noli contendere verbis
Lis minimis verbis interdū maxima crescit
  Of brondes smale be made fires grete
  Withdrawe the brondes the fire shal decrese
  Ageyn thy hyer loke thou not plete
  With wordes fele for wordes discorde thy pese
  The man is wyse than can of wordes cese
  For this is as verily soth as god gaf lyf
  That wordes smale breden ful moche stryf
Quod deus intendit noli perquirere sorte
Quod statuit de te sine te deliberat ipse
  Dele not with magike ner with sorcerie
  In goddes hand is al fortune and fate
  Be not aboute to calke by destenye

Whether thou be misereus or fortunate
Lete god a lone in hym is al thyn estate
For what hym lust of the to purpose
Withouten the he can ful wele dispose
Inuidiam nimio cultu vitare memento
Que si non ledat tamen hanc sufferre molestum
Beware ay of enuye with tatches felle
Withyn thyn hert loke ay that she ne rest
For it is oon of the chief peynes of helle
Whan she soiourneth within a man is brest
Than brenneth fenix in hyre owne nest
And than she may noon other man mischeue
Yet ethna cesith not hyre self to greue
Esto forti animo cum sis dampnatus inique
Nemo diu gaudet qui iudice vincit iniquo
Enforce thyn hert with manly suffrance
Though that fals Jugement a geyn the procede
Be thou not a basshed in word ne cōtenānce
For ofte times ẏ fals opp̄ssour may reule ꝛ lede
The lawe but truste me wele withouten drede
Longe to reioyse acheue he may nat
Whiche by menes vntrewe his goodis so gat
Nec te collaudes nec te culpaueris ipse

Hoc faciunt stulti quos gloria vexat inanis
Thy self also loke thou not preyse
Ner dispreyse but let thou other men alone
Alwey after prudence thy wordes peyse
For thyn auant honour shalt thou gete none
But haue a mok as sone as thou art gone
A man to preyse hym self as seith the scole
Or dispreyse moche is token of a fole
Litis preterite noli maledicta referre
Post inimicicias iram meminisse malorum est
Wrath of old þ^t shold be kept oute of mynde
Be thou not aboute to make it on lyue
But the enuyous hath ay a tacche of kynde
Suche malice my child loke þ^u neuer reuyue
For suche malice of old wrath maketh a striue
And who remembreth old enemyte
A wikked man forsoth is he
Utere quesitis modice cum sumptus habundat
Labitur exiguo quod partum est tempore longo
Whan it is tyme of cost and grete expense
Bewar of wast and spende ay by mesure
Who that to kepe or spende hath no differense
Maketh his goodes may not longe endure

For the old prouerbe saith mesure is tresure
Remēbre ẏ somme thy goodes may slip away
That bifore were goten in many a sondry day
Incipiens esto cum tempus postulat aut res
Stulticiā similare loco prudencia summa est
It is no wisedam a man alwey to be sage
But sumtyme to be nyce and feyne folye
Who that hath this set shal fynde auantage
Whan tyme and thing desireth that espye
And than dissimile that is gret pollecye
For sumtyme to be vnwyse by apparence
Among the wyse is cleped hye prudence
Luxuriam fugito simul et vitare memento
Crimen auaricie nam sunt contraria fame
The filthy flesshe meuyng the bestial
That fighteth ay agayn the soule withyn
By force of hyre attisement liberal
Eschewe my child & kepe the from hyre gyn
That art and grace ben set ful fer a twyn
And eschewe ay of auarice ẏ wikked fame
Thyse two they ben that causen euyl name
Noli tu quedam referenti credere semper
Exigua ē tribuēda fides qr multi multa loquūtur

Beleue ye not lightly in euery wightis sawe
For sume reporten thing al other wyse
Than it was euer thought or don or sawe
And some haue it also of custume & of guise
To fede folk with flateringe and lyes
Therfore geue litel trust to suche feire speking
For many folkes speke vntrewe thinge
Quod potes peccas ignoscere tu tibi noli
Nam nullū crimen vini sed culpa bibentis
Yf thou surfete in drink forgete ye not that
Aduise the wele eftse thou come not in ye snare
Withdrawe thin hād fede not thy throte to fat
Drinke that sufficeth the & ellis loke thou spare
To moche drink maketh men of wit ful bare
And yet the wyne therof is not to blame
To blame is the drinker yt makith hym lame
Consilium archanū tacito committe sodali
Corporis auxilium medico committe fideli
To thy trusty frende that is secret to the
Shewe thy conseyl and thy nede bewrie
For a trusty frend is the chest of priuite
But it is gret hap suche frendes to espye
Trye oute oon amonge al a companye

And of thy body betake thou at the cure
Unto suche a leche that is trusty and sure
Successus indignos noli tu ferre moleste
Indulget fortuna malis vt ledere possit
With thy self a greue the neuer to sore
Though thing a mys sumtyme betyde
Dismay the not in besy wyse therfore
For thyn auenture nedes thou must abyde
Fortune may not alwey be on thy syde
With harmes to greue ay in wayte lith she
To ref men welth honour and prosperyte
Prospice qui veniūt hos casus esse ferendos
Nam leuius ledit quicquid p̄uidimus ante
In thyn owne self compace aboute ay before
Thing to perceyue that after wol fal
It noieth not ner greueth not half so sore
That is a fore seen as other thing shal
Sodein chaunses disesith moost of al
It hurteth ay lesse and is in better plight
Where a man prudently can haue a fore sight
Rebus in aduersis animū submittere noli
Spem retinere spes vna hōīm nō morte relinquit
Whan diuers thinges trauerse thyn entent

And thou art wrapped in aduersite
For wanhope loke thou be not lost ne shent
Lete neuer dispair thy wit bereue the
But abyde the tyme that better shal be
Hope is she that shal make the a seth
Hope leueth not a man til man leue ẏ breth
Rem tibi quā noscis aptam dimittere noli
Fronte capillata post hec occasio calua
Whan men profre than is tyme to reteyne
Take an thing whyle they ben in season
Many profre now that after wol refreme
For ẏ is plente now wol afterward be geson
Therfore take an in time for so cōseileth reson
For the balled hed was sumtyme ful of heris
Whiche is now bare withoute rasure or sheris
Quod sequitur specta qd imminet ante videto
Illum imitare deum qui partē spectat vtramq3
Prouide thy self and haue deliberance
By likly coniecture what way betyde
Aduertyse my child in thy remembrance
A fore and after aboute on euery syde
Folowe that good wol & lete him be thy guyde
Whiche hath al thing oonly in his gouuernemēt

Fortune feture & pousté & al that is present
Forcior vt valeas interdū parcior esto
Pauca voluptati debentur plura saluti
It is a tacche of a deuouryng honde
To receyue superfluyte and do eke excesse
Tyl his receyt ageyn from hym rebonde
Contente thy nature & fle ay from gredinesse
Foule lustes ay kepe vnder fote & represse
Fede not thy lust with al that she wol craue
Yf that in helth the liste thy lyf to haue
Sic tibi precipue qd primū est cura salutis
Tempora ne culpes cum sint tibi causa doloris
Take good hede eke of thyn owne estate
To reule thy body wele with good diete
In tyme but loke thou be not at debate
Thurgh thyn owne reule and surfete
Though seknesse & sorowe haue yeue þe an hete
The tyme is good & no diesmale ther is
But yf men it make for that they don a mys
Sompnia ne cures nā mens humana qd optat
Dum vigilat sperat p sompnum cernit idipm
Drede thou no dremes so seith deutronomye
For ofte they be caused of duiers complexion

Som of ymaginacōns & many a nice fātesie
For dremes ben ofte deceit and fals illusion
Or ellis of blode or of superflue replexion
Whan they be wakyng they desire & thinke
Upon that thing they dreme whan they winke
Judicium populi nūquam contempseris vnus
Ne nulli placeas dū vis contempnere multos
Whan that a multitude hath yeue a decree
Or concluded ought a geyn thyn entent
Trauerse yet neuer a yeinst the comentee
For yf thou do thou shalt be sore shent
Dispise þu not a soone the peoples Jugement
In auenture thou please of hem not oon
Whiles thou woldest trauerse hem euerichon
Museth a while what al thyse maters mene
Abideth sire and goo no further yet
For to rede theym vayleth not a bene
To no man but he the kernel vnknet
Ther fore al your hert & al your mynde vnshet
And loke what lieth vnder þe boistous rynde
And I dar sey of wisdam and of wit
Plente and foyson therein shal ye fynde
Refresshith your spirites with this holsom diete

That fostreth vertues and kepith a lyue
To your persone me thinketh ful mete
For to receyue suche a ioyful nutretyf
Whiche your estat shal ay preserue in lyf
In greet honour & kepe you from noyance
Oute of the daunger of vices infectyf
Yf ye werche after this ordenance
And in special loke that your dede
May bere trew witnesse and testifye
The maters that ye beholde and rede
loke hem with your hert as wele as with your eye
And than dar I say sumwhat ye shal espye
In this werk that shal meue your corage
Wherfore your hert your eye & your spirite applie
Your self ay to reule after thyse dedes sage

+ Incipit liber tercius +

H Oc quicunque velis carmen cognoscere lector
Hec precepta feres que sunt gratissima vite
Loo what wight that lusteth him for to rede
In this my diete sumwhat shal he fynde
Wherwith he may his soule fostre and fede

With vertue and it from vices unbynde
Come nere my child therfore & haue in mynde
Suche doctrine in thyn hert to bere awey & lere
As to thy self here after shal be lef & dere
Instrue preceptis animum ne discere cesses
Nā sine doctrina vita est quasi mortis ymago
Mannes soule resembleth a newe plain table
In whiche yet apperith to sight no picture
The philisophre saith withouten fable
Right so is mānes soule but a dedly figure
Unto the tyme she be reclaimed with ẏ lure
Of doctrine and so gete hir a good habit
To be expert in cunnyng science & prouffit
Interpone tuis interdum gaudia curis
Ut possis animo quemuis sufferre laborem
Who that lakketh rest may no while endure
Therfore among take ease and disport
Delyte the neuer in gret besinesse and cure
But that whilom thou maist also resort
To playes recreacions & al other comfort
Than shalt thou better laboure atte longe
Whan thou hast mirth thy besinesse amonge

Cum recte viuas ne cures verba malorum
Arbitrij nostri nō est qd quisqȝ loquatur
Yf thou lyue iustly ay kepe vp right
Neuer declinyng for mede lucre drede or fauour
Treuli than stādest thou ī a fulholsom̄ plight
Though mē maligne ẏ with wordes of rigour
Yf thou lyue thus thy good lif is thy tr ur
We may not let the people to gaure & crye
But do yet wele though they missey or lye
Productus testis saluo tamen ante pudore
Quātumcumqȝ potes celato crimen amici
Sone yf thou be called the soth to testifye
Euermore sauyng thy worship & honeste
Thy frendes trespas be not aboute to be wrye
Where as no shame therof may growe to the
This requireth ay good frendship parde
In wele and the trewe beneuolence
Betwix folkes is frendship in assistence
Sermones blandos blesos qȝ cauere memento
Simplicitas viri fama est fraus ficta loquendi
Make besy wache kepe wele thy soule algate
Beholde wisely aboute & spye thy couert trayne
Whan that fals fauel knokketh at thy yate

He menyth gile thaugh outward he fayne
For he can anoynte bothe thin eres twayne
With the oyle of playsance in ful gret foison
But yet vnder yͧ kepe yͧ wele from this poison

Segniciem fugito que vite ignauia fertur
Nā cum aīmus languet consumit inercia corpꝰ

Slouthe slogardy and dul Idelnesse
And lachesse that causeth to be negligent
Enforce yͧ ay to eschewe with al thy besinesse
For Idel soule maketh thy body shent
Treuly ther is in erth no gretter argument
For to conclude thy mortal body vnapte
Than the soule in Idelnes to be wrapte

Comoda multa feras sinautē spreueris illud
Non me scriptorem sed te neglexeris ipse

Enprinte my teching in thy soule stedfast
And ful proffitable thou shalt it fynde
Forsake it not ner fro thin hert it caste
For yf that thou exclude oute of thy mynde
This lesson thou art ful barein and blynde
From vertues and therfore wite not me
Sithen the defaulte my sone is than in the

Alterius dictum vel factum ne carpseris vnquā

Exemplo simili ne te derideat alter
It is ful hardy to please euery wight
Displease ye of no manere dedes ner theym lak
Ner thaire wordes neither for euen so right
As thou displeased theym behynde thy bak
Right so wol men make the a mok & knak
For the contrarye thaugh men hady it sworn
The scorner shal be guerdoned ay with scorn
Quod tibi sors dederit tabulis suprema notato
Augendo serua ne sis quem fama sequatur
Whan thy last sort that men callen fate
Ys good and pleasant after thyn entent
This mene I lo whan thou art fortunate
Recorde al thy goodes that god hath the sent
And suffre hem not rekklesly to be spent
For than of a wastour thou shalt haue ye name
For gret riot wol cause thy feble fame
Cum tibi diuicie superant in fine senecte
Munificus facito viuas non parcus amicis
Into gret age what tyme yt thou art crept
And hast richesse psperite & gret habundance
Be liberal than of ye goodes yt afore yu hast kept
Thenke wele thou hast ynogh and suffisance

Lete neuer thy good of the haue gouernance
But gouerne & departe it ay with thy frend
For whan thou gost hens it may not with the wend
Utile consilium dominus ne despice serui
Nullius sensum si prodest contempseris unquam
Grace is youen to man in many sondry wyse
Some haue wisedam & some haue eloquence
The poure folkes also some tyme be ful wyse
A seruāt sumtyme may be ek of gret sapiēce
Though al he be had in litel reuerence
Rewarde his wit yf it be worth the whyle
For vertu is hid vnder many an habit vile
Rebus et in sensu si non est quod fuit ante
Fac viuas contentus eo quod tempora prebent
This worldes welth ebbyng & flowing ay
At no certeyn is like as wankle aprile
Though thou haue losse thou shalt not the dismay
Be content with that thou hast for the whyle
Some mā ther is that hath neither crosse ne pile
Now in his ward & yet right good auenture
Is him ful negh no mā may knowe his vre
Uxorem fuge ne ducas sub nomine dotis
Nec retinere velis si cepit esse molesta

Wedde not a wyf for hire enheritance
For she wol cast it often in thy berd
And yf she be noyant and ful of greuance
Constreine hyre neuer to abyde in thy yerd
Of chastisement It is a cursed swerd
To kepe suche oon that wol ay a twyte
For he is at ease that of suche oon is quyte

Multorum disce exemplo que facta sequaris
Que fugias vita nobis est aliena magistra

Of other men thou shalt thy myrrour make
Cōfourme yͤ to that/that moost men appreue
What thou shalt do & what thou shalt forsake
A better set maist thou not contreue
Than to other men is dedes releue
In al that perteineth to thy techyng
Make of other men a reule of thy leuyng

Quod potes id tempta operis ne pondere pressus
Succumbat labor et frustra temptata relinquas

Attēpte no thing yͭ surmounteth thy might
Ner that to finisshe thou maist not acheue
For than stādest thou foule in thin owne sight
Ouer his power what man that lusteth meue
With shame his werke must nedis take leue

It is foly a man suche werkes to begynne
Whiche to persourme is power is to thynne
Quod nosci factum non recte noli silere
Ne videare malos imitari velle tacendo
Lawe presumeth that what man kepith stille
The crime of oon that hath doon gret offence
And discouerydn hit not he is than Ille
As the criminous for kepyng of his scilence
Therfore my sone brynge it in to audience
That thou perceyuest not wele don is
Lest for silence men deme of the a mys
Judicis auxilium sub iniqua lege rogato
Ipse etem leges cupiunt vt Jure regantur
Whan the lawe is strait and rigorous
Entrete ay the Jugge to do the fauour
Enclinyng hym for to be gracious
For an egal Jugge may thy cause ay socour
And yet the lawe shal be his gouernour
Whiche oweth sumtyme to moderye
As in cas he may a point aspye
Quod merito pateris paciente ferre memento
Cumqz reus tibi sis ipsum te iudice dampna
What peyne thou suffrest for thy desert

Receyue it ay wele in gree and pacience
Al though thy trespas be pryue and couert
Yet whan thou weyes it in thin aduertence
That thou art blemisshed in thy conscience
With in thy self make thou an arbitrement
Demyng thy self in thyn owne Juggemēt
Multa legas facito ꝑlectis ꝑlege multa
Nam miranda canūt sed non credenda poete
Mispende thou no tyme neuer for lachesse
But whilom rede in bokes old and wyse
Rede and reporte eke with gret attentifnesse
By redyng to cunnyng a man may ryse
Than rede my sone and cunnyng accomplise
Thyse poetes writen thing of gret merueyle
And eke of smale credēce ofte this is no faile
Inter conuiuas fac sis sermone modestus
Ne dicare loquax dum vis vrbanus haberi
Euermore amonge frendes sittyng atte fest
Be thou curteys & demeure of thy langage
Who yͭ speketh moost is not counted wisest
For of flesshe & bone nature hath made a cage
The tonge to kepe that she be not outrage
Than yf thou wil be preferred of nature

Refrayne thy tonge with al thy besy cure
Coniugis irate noli tu verba timere
Nā lacrimas struit insidias dū femina plorat
Some women wepen of pure feminite
Whan other wyse they can not thayre entent
Acheue but yet be war of suche nyce pyte
Thy manly reason for that be not blent
For suche weping thy hert aught neuer relent
Some women of kynde be euer wepynge
And vnder that they can bothe pryk & stynge
Utere quesitis sed ne videaris abuti
Qui sua cōsumūt cum deest aliena sequuntur
Whan thou hast goten to thy worship vse
What auayleth richesse with oute honour
To spende ay good & worship to refuse
Is no point of proffit ner of socour
Therfore ye thou hast goten with trew labour
Consume not in mysuse lest thou doo a mys
Ofte he nedith of other that wasted hath his
Fac tibi pro premis mortem non esse timendam
Que bona si nō est finis tamen illa bonorum
Enprinte my child ay hertly in thy mynde
That thou be not of deth so sore a drad

Whiche shal the from wrechednesse vnbynde
Where in thy lif so longe thou hast forth lad
A lyf pauenture to god and man ful bad
The whiche though she be not to al pffitable
Yet she maketh an ende bothe of bad & able

Vxoris linguam si frugi est ferre memento
Namqꝫ malum nil velle pati nec posse taceri

Thy wyues wordes thou suffre & take in gree
Whan it auayleth for betyde it may
Ful ofte that of grete prudence is she
And moost to be alowed this is no nay
Suffre hyre than and hyre concept assay
For it is hard whan thou can not be stylle
Ner yet to suffre hire thou can eke haue wille

Dilige nō egra caros pietate parentes
Nec matrē offendas dū viuis bonꝰ esse parenti

Goodes that ben geuen the of nature
They come to the of thy progenitours
Therfore my child with al thy force & cure
Loke thou loue hem & cherisshe at al hours
For they fostre yͤ & kept ī youth from shours
Thy moder my dere child yet in especial
Yet thou do wele neuer offende at al

Resorte resorte and hiderward the releue
My maistre now here is an holsome eyre
For your auayle to this place retreue
Where as for moralite sprigyng floures feire
And sote ful pleasantly to the repeyre
Gadre of hem and make a chaplet or a gay
And rest ȳ a while here right in this herbere
Beholde wele & see what thing is to your pay

Incipit liber quartus.

ſ Ecurā quicumqȝ cupis deducere vitam
Nec vicijs herere anim que moribus obsunt
What wight that list to lyue in sekernesse
His lyf & his soule to kepe from encumbrance
Of vices the whiche & good thewes oppresse
Be ay at stryf come nere & geue attendance
Thyse preceptis kepe wele in remembrance
Enrollyng hem & printyng in your mynde
And so to lyue the menes shal ye fynde
Despice diuicias si vis animo esse beatus
Quas qui suscipiunt mendicant semꝑ auari
The foule talent of riches my child eschew

And resemble thou neuer gredy tantalus
Whos etyk in hunger is alwey newe
Amonge the feyre apples delicious
no water swete quenchith his thurst right thus
To vilayns swalowe of couetyse
Loo al this world noght can ner suffyse
Comoda nature nullo tibi tempore deerunt
Si contentus es fueris quod postulat vsus
With resonable fedyng be thou content
As in diete a man shold neuer ouer charge
Him self for with surfet many men ben shent
For thayre receytes ben to grete and large
Men seen alday that litel bote or barge
Wol drenche a noon whan it is ouer freight
Cherisshe euer nature with none ouer weight
Cum sis incautus nec rem ratione gubernas
Noli fortunam que non est dicere cecam
Yf thy thyng the happe to mysgouerne
Withoute reason or any prouidence
Than myn owne child of me this lesson lerne
Say not it was by fortune suche expense
To make but wite it thyn owne negligence
For fortune may neuer compelle the

Thy goodz to spende but at thy liberte
Dilige denarium sed parce dilige formam
Quã nemo sanctus nec honestus captat habere
Loue thou the peny as for thy cheuisance
Not for the quoyne to horde it vpon hepe
For of the prince was made the ordonance
Not for in cofres It sholdz be stille & slepe
But y^t^ it sholdz ay stere among ye people & lepe
In their eschange & who that kepith it Imne
As for the fourme is ay subget to synne
Cum fueris locuples corpus curare memento
Eger diues habet nūmos ꝫ non habet ipsum
Whan thou hast plente andz art pecunial
I mene whan thou hast grete suffisance
Of money foyson andz help but smal
Than spende thy money & thy self auance
Kepe neuer the coyne andz lyue in greuance
The sike hath siluer in ful gret excesse
But of hym self he hath no sikernesse
Verber cum tuleris discens aliquando magistri
Fer patris imperium cum verbis exit in iram
Thaugh sumtime y^u^ suffre the gret sharpnes
Of betyngz yet ay thy maistres chastisemēt

Take wele in gre with humble lowlines
Sith it is don but al in good entent
In cause to lerne and wysedam for to hent
Al thaught his wordes sowne ful of Ire
Yet suffre thou the talent of that fyre
Res age que psunt rursus vitare memento
In quibus error inest nec spes est certa laboris
Also my child thou shalt the ay occupye
To wirke thyng that ben proffytable
But loke thou neuer thy wittes applye
To thinges that may not be auaylable
To kepe a thyng that is not proffytable
By wit or strengthe It is gret errour
Dispayred hope is the end of suche labour
Quod donare potes gratis concede roganti
Nam recte fecisse bonis in parte lucrosum est
Whan þ shalt yeue than yeue in frendly wyse
Frendly contente thou a prayer or a request
For thyng yeuen by tyme is yeuen twyse
Suche gladsome chere makith yeftes richest
Who that yeueth gladly & sone yeueth is best
Loo no thing better may thing conquere
Than a man to lene that he may forbere

Quod tibi suspectū est cōfestim discute quid sit
Namqꝫ solent primo que sunt neglecta nocere
Whan vpon a thing thou hast a coniecture
As in thy conceyt holdyng in suspect
To discouere that a noon do thy cure
For at the first whan suche thing is reiect
That sholde selve after is easy to correct
A thing that at the first is nought set by
Ys often tymes sene to greue finally
Cum te detineat veneris dampnosa voluptas
Indulgeat gule noli que ventris amica est
And whan thou art disposed inwardlye
To venus actes than expresse thy corage
Suffre not thy flesshe than to lustlye
For grete diete maketh thy flesshe outrage
Where as mesure might causen it to asswage
And gloteny is cleped the chief prometrice
Leding the flesshe ay to wantonesse & vice
Cum tibi ꝓponas animalia cuncta timere
Vnū precipue hominem plus esse timendum
The rampant lyon and the tigre felle
The Irous bore the hounde ful of enuye
and many moo bestis than here nedith to telle

Men dreden ful sore and eke thaire tirannye
And wele they do but yet oon beest espye
That is a fore al other moost especial
Man is the beest that thou moost drede shal
Cum tibi preualide fuerint in corpore vires
Hac sapias ato sic tu poteris vir fortis haberi
The vertue that is called fortitude
Stondeth al in the strengthe bodely
As to be curious mighty stronge and rude
But in the soule It must be sikerly
Neuertheles yf thou wilt thy soule fortefye
And hym withyn a queynte with sapience
Treuly than shalt thou be stronge in existence
Auxilium a notis petito si forte laboras
Nec quisq̃ melior medicus quã fidus amicus
What thing in erth yͭ thou shalt take on honde
And thy support shal be in frendlinesse
No strange wight on liue so negh yͭ wel stõde
as thy knowen frend my child this is expresse
Of the stranger hast thou no sikernesse
For whan al other ben for to seche
The feithful knowen frẽd can best be thy leche
Cum sis ipse nocens moritur cur victima ꝓ te

Stulticia est in mortem alterius sperare salutē
The deth of bestes that ben vnresonable
As by custume and right of sacrifise
To purge the is no seth greable
Truste not also to gete thy reprise
For they that trusten so ben ful vnwyse
By deth of bestes god wol not quemed be
And a man a bide stille in his iniquyte
Cum tibi vel sociū vel fidum queris amicum
Non tibi fortuna est hōis sed vita petenda
Whan thou wold chese a frend for trustinesse
Of his fortune make noon inquirance
For fortune is moder of changeablenesse
But aske of his dedes and his gouernance
For that is proued of gretter suffisance
Than vre of fortune that is casuelle
For lyf of man his fortune doth excelle
Utere quesitis opibus fuge nomen auari
Quid tibi diuicie ꝓsunt si pauper habundas
Vse wele the richesse that thou hast of quest
Of auarice the wikked fame eschewe
Lete not thy good lye ay stopped ī thy chest
kepe not thy tresour & stuf ay closed in mewe

Suche old tresour wol make thy shame newe
What proffiteth plente and gret tresure
And in pouerte a wreche alwey to endure
Si famam seruare cupis dū viuis honestam
Hac fugias aīo que sunt mala gaudia vite
My sone yf thou desire to reioyse thy fame
In honeste whyle thou lyuest here
Eschewe thingꝭ that may causen thy shame
And lichorous lustes must be leyde on bere
And eke thingis fele that ful Joious appere
Thy worldes ioye is ofte ful defectyf
Be war of ioye that lettith thy good lyf
Cum sapias aīo noli irridere senectam
Nā quocūqꝫ sene puerilis sensus in illo est
And ay my child assay and aduertyse
That thou neuer skorne ẏͤ gret stouping age
Thy elder my sone for no thingꝭ thou dispise
Though al in thaire wittes they be not so sage
As in thayre yonth sith age is outrage
Whan age cometh this is soth certayn
A man begynneth than to be a child again
Disce aliquid nā cum subito fortuna recedit
Ars remanet vitam ꝙ hoīs nō deserit vnquā

Enforce thy wittes ſumwhat for to lere
Aqueinte the with cunnyng for it is ſure
Yf fortune change and pouerte appere
Who that is cunnyng is likly to recure
Cunnyng and craft remayne euer & endure
And by theym a man may ſone releue
Whan fortune hath caſt hym to myſcheue
Proſpicito cuncta tacitus quod quiſq; loquatur
Sermo hominum mores celat et indicat idem
Be ſtille in ſcilence with good adiuiſidneſſe
Tarye my child til othir haue ſayde
So ſhalt þu lerne ſumwhat of ſtedfaſtneſſe
Lete neuer thy tonge ſodenly be vnteyde
For that might the of haſtineſſe abreyde
By man is word his maner wol be ſhewde
By word eke is knowen þe wyſe from þe lewde
Exerce ſtudium quamuis perceperis artem
Vt cura ingenium ſic et manus adiuuat vſum
Thaugh of cunnyng thou haue ful gret
Enforce the ay my child yet to lerne more
The ſoule it is that muſt be thy receyt
Repleniſſhe here with vertues treſour & ſtore
Vſe maketh maiſtrie vſe þu ay cūnyng therfore

Vse helpeth art and cure helpith wit
Than vse and cure to gedre must be knit
Multum venturi ne cures tempora fati
Nō metuit mortem qui scit contempnere vitam
The body from ye soule shal haue disseuerance
Deth is the ende cōmune of euery wight
Charge not therfore of deth is chance
The tribut of deth must thou pay of right
But yet of deth shalt thou set but light
Yf by this lyf thou set right noght expresse
The whiche is ay ful of wo & wrechednesse
Disce sed a doctis indoctos ipse doceto
Propaganda est etm̄ rerum doctrina bonarum
Lerne ay of the wyse & teche the vncūnyng
For it is vertue & at al tyme cōmendable
To encrese doctrine thurgh suche cōmenyng
It is ek alwey a dede of god charitable
Bothe to lerne & to teche It is ful greable
Doctrine helpith vertue euermore on lyue
Which ne were dede ne sone from vs wolde slyue
Hoc bibe qd possis si tu vis viuere sanus
Morbi causa mali namq3 est queamq3 voluptas
Drinke not to muche more than yu may bere

Reule wele ay thy self with ẏͤ bridel of mesure
To moche drinke wol thy body noy ꝫ dere
For surfet is euermore of helth vnsure
And mesure maketh men in helth tendure
What man is reuled after lustes vile
In good estat he may abyde no whyle
Laudaris quodcumqꝫ palam quodcumqꝫ ꝑbaris
Hoc vide ne rursus leuitatis crimine dampnis
And yf hyt hap the my child in audience
A thing to prayse bewar ẏͭ thou not blame
Efte agein right the same in presence
Yf thou dispreyse comende not eke the same
Of suche trauers must nedis ryse shame
To preyse now and efte to blame expres
It is a signe of gret vnstedfastnes
Tranquillis rebus que sunt aduersa caueto
Rursus in aduersis melius sperare memento
Whan ẏͧ liuest here right at thyn owne ease
In al thy hertis ioye rest and prosperyte
Thenke yet paraꝫ that ꝓsperyte may sese
For worldly welth standeth neuer in sikerte
And as sone whan pouerte or aduersite
Assauteth ẏͤ yet falle thou neuer in dispaire

Thenke ay ī thy self good fortune may repaire
Discere nō cesses cura sapiencia crescit
Rara datur longo prudencia temporis vsu
It is ful faire my child to be prudent
And wyse loke that thou lerne fast therfore
To lerne ay my sone do thyn entent
For by cure & besinesse wisdam is the more
Wisdam is she that may not be forbore
The rare prudence that folkes nyce refuse
Can neuer be had but by processe and vse
Parce laudato nam quem tu sepe probaris
Vna dies qualis fuerit monstrabit amicus
Beware also that thou neuer enhance
In thy laude or preysing a wight to hye
For thou maist haue cause efte to disanance
Thy fame but ay thy preysing moderye.
For on a day thou shalt ful wele espye
Whether he be frend that frendly semyth
For al be no frendes that men demyth
Ne pudeat que nescieris te velle doceri
Scire aliquid laus est culpa est nil discere velle
Be not ashamed also my child to lere
That thou canst not for it is but a teche

Of foly noght to desire doctrine to here
For wele is him that to cūnyng may streche
For cunnynglees a man is but a wreche
Therfore to cūne moche it is right comendable
And eke noght to cūne it is moost repuable
Cum venere et bacho lis est et iuncta voluptas
Quod iustū est animo complectere ꝫ fuge lites
Venus is ay redy to al hyre actes vile
Whan that bachus hath hyre in largesse
Thurgh the tresour of hyre hete ꝛ feruent fyre
Therfore my child thyn apetit thou represse
In wynes hete do thou neuer to gret excesse
Drinke nomore than for the soule is expedient
Eschewe strif ꝛ ay with mesure be content
Dimissos animo tacitos vitare memento
Quo flumē est placidū forsan latet altior vnda
The solein stille mā ofte meneth fraude ꝛ gile
Of suche a man eschewe ay the companye
For the stille mā compasseth other whyle
Withyn his decept falshede and trecherye
In flodes stille is water depe and hye
For often tymes betyde vnhappy chance
In stremes softe semyng to thy pleasance

Cum tua fortuna rerum tibi displicet vni
Alterius specta quo sis discrimine peior
With thy fortune whan thou art discontent
And canst not take in gre thyn auenture
Beholde aboute and fele in thyn aduisemēt
How they ẏ whylom were of goodes more sure
Than thou and more likly in welth tendure
Bothe for bounte fauour and eke noblesse
and yet sodenly they haue fall into wrechednesse
Quod potes id tempta nam litus carpere remis
Tucius est multo quā velum tendere in altum
Attempte the thing so as thou maist suffise
passe neuer thy might bere neuer to hye a sayle
For there is perel yf that the streme a ryse
Certein my child this is withoute fayle
The vessel smal is at ful gret auale
Whan that with oore to londe he may a reche
Whan the sayles hye ful ofte gon to wreche
Contra hoīem iustum praue contendere noli
Semper enim deus iniustas vlciscitur iras
a geyn yͤ trew iust mā braule yͧ neuer ne striue
For vnto god aboue that is gret displeasāce
Truste this trewly there is no mā here on liue

That to the iust man doth dere or greuance
But at the last god wol take vengeance
Therfore herof it is reason iche man to take
For ẏ right wyse mā of god is neuer forsake
Exceptis opibus noli merere dolendo
Sed gaude potius si te contingat habere
Yf extorcion or of any misauenture
Haue plukked at the & made the thredbare
Of richesse yet do thou ay thy force and cure
To be mery and eschewe thought and care
For flyteryng thought is a foule snare
Come not therin fortune is vnstable
After pouerte richesse is preygnable
Est iactura grauis que sunt amittere dampnis
Sunt quedā que ferre decet paciencer amicum
It is harme thy goodes to for go
That ben in hand with force and violence
But yet my child thou must considere who
And what he is that doth suche offence
Betwene frend and foo haue ay a difference
For in sume cas thou aught a frend forbere
And eke suffre hym though he noye & dere
Tempora longa tibi noli promittere vite

Quocu͡qꝫ igrederis sequitur mors corpis umbrã
Be not sure that thou shalt lyue here longe
A wight shal dye al be it that he be loth or lef
And as ẏͤ oldn so doth the yong eke amonge
Deth stelith ay on as doth a pryue thef
For a geyn deth men may fynde no relef
She is aboute ay to make a final diuorse
And foloweth eche day ẏͤ schadowe of thy corse
Thure deum placa vitulum siue crescat aratro
Nec credas placare deum dum cede litatur
Worshipe god with all thy puyssance
With hert entier ⁊ swete smelling ensence
Suche sacrifice is good to his pleasance
Of the calues smale that neuer did offence
Though ẏͧ hem sle the blode may not dispence
With ẏͤ lete hem growe ⁊ swynke in ẏͤ plough
Thy trew hert ay to god is suffisãce is ynogh
Cede locum lesus fortune cede potenti
Ledere qui potuit aliquãdo prodesse valebit
Yeue place to hym that excedith thy might
Though ẏͧ be hurt It may ꝓffite par chance
And selde auayleth any man to fight
Agein suche oon that passith his puyssance

Though al it greue now efte it may auance
For ofte is sene that after gret duresse
The mighty man is ful of gentilnesse
Cum quid peccaris castiga teipse subinde
Vulnera dū sanas dolor est medicina doloris
After thy surfet and thy gret offence
Chastyse thy self correcte that is a mys
Redresse ẏ to good reule amēde thy negligēce
And sorowe for synne a verrey medicine is
Repente the sore than art thou sauf I wys
For phisik seith my sone I the ensure
A bitter drink the sharp seknesse may cure
Dampnaris nūquā pst longū tempus amicū
Mutauit mores sed pugnere prima memento
Yf ẏͧ haue founde good frendship in a wight
Longe a goo & yet though he begyn to change
Dispeire him not men abide not ī oon plight
For sūtime was lordship ther now is grāge
The worldes cours is wondre queint & strāge
But though as now the mā is wex vnkynde
Yet is old frendship remembrid ay in mynde
Gracior officijs quo sis mage carior esto
Ne nomen subeas quod dicitur officiperdi

Thaugh it were the in office to be set
Than be thou gentil & gracious to other men
That they may reporte a godly is met
With office and so good name shal ren
Aboute of the but assure the lest when
The officer is vnbounde than seith the prees
Now wold to god yt this mā were officeles
Suspectus caueas ne sis miser omnibus horis
Nam timidis et suspectis aptissima mors est
Be not suspect that is a wikkid teche
The suspect man with cowardi ferfulnesse
In his lyuyng is but a werrey wreche
Mys is a mys but al he wold redresse
He demeth fals and fayleth hertlinesse
By fals conceyt set in malencolye
Sleth him a noon thus deth endith his folye
Cum seruos fueris pprios mercatus in vsus
Et famulos dicas homines tamen esse memento
Yf thou haue men withoute fredom & liberte
Suche as ben cleped men of bondage
Notwithstādinge they be vnder thy captiuite
yet honoure suche & ouer hem be not to outrage
Yf they beholden vnder thy lordly seruage.

For al they ben bounde yet bettey men they be
that god hath made them mē yet ay remēbre ẏ
Quā plurimū rapienda tibi est occasio prima
Ne rursus queras que iam neglexeris ante
Thy first fortune receyue with redinesse
Refuse it not though it be skant & smal
It is wel better in gre to take the lesse
Than to refuse it and after fayle of al
Yeftis of fortune take hem ay as they fal
Refuse hem nowe & efte thou shalt haue nede
Therfore it is to take whan me ꝓfre & bede
Morte repentina noli gaudere maloꝝ
Felices obiunt quoꝝ sine crimine vita
Reioyse the neuer my child in al thy lyf
The sodeyn deth of a cursed man & wreche
whan he is ded the soule may not relef
From peyne to ioy the soule may not reche
The fendes halde ay sore that they may keche
Therfore who ẏ lyuith iustly ful wel doth he
For his soule is ay ful of felicite
Cum cōiunx tibi sit nec res et fama laborat
Vitandum ducas inimicum nomen amici
Yf thou haue a wyf in assurance

Truste hire wele and loue hir in wardlye
With hert with thought with al thy affiance
And be thou neuer infect with suspect Jelosie
Yf no fault be in hire or that thou can espye
Yet yf thy frend tel the suche is the fame
He is a frend and she no thing to blame
Cum tibi contingerit studio cognoscere multa
Hac discas multa vita nescire doceri
Whan thurgh studye and gret exercise
Thou knowest moche & hast gret cunnyng
Yet ay do thy diligence in the moost besy wyse
To purchase more for it is a holsome thing
For to gret honour cunnyng may the bring
And eschewe thou neuer daily to be taught
For without teching cūnyng may not be caught
Miraris verbis nudis me scribere versus
Hec breuitas sensus fecit coniungere binos
Yf thou aught meruayle or lust to muse
In naked wordes why my versis thus I write
In no wyse trewly I may me better excuse
Than sey my wit so dul is and vnperfyte
Whiche arteth me thus rudely for to endite
By two and two my metre for to knyt

No thing causeth me but simplenesse of wyt
Nowe I haue gadered floures to your lyst
Tasteth theym for they be preseruatyf
Holdeth theym fast & kepe hem in your fyst
For the pestilence eyre whiche is infectyf
I conseyle you and I ieparde my lyf
That ye shul lede your lyf in sekernesse
And eke atteyne to moche worthinesse
This mene I to you vnder protection
Of your gode grace what tyme ye rede
Or ellis haue in this mater inspection
As it biddeth that ye wol do in dede
Than dar I afferme withoute drede
Ye shul acheue and be ful vertuous
Here haue I fonde that shal you guyde & lede
Straight to gode fame & leue you in hir hous

. Explicit Catho .